13 Fixes For Windows Could Not Complete the Installation

October 30, 2021



If you are getting the error saying, Windows could not complete the installation. Then there could be multiple reasons behind it. Like update service shut down, corrupted installation files, an incompatible system and continued. To repair the issue, we have mentioned all the viable fixes in this article to fix – Windows could not complete the installation error.

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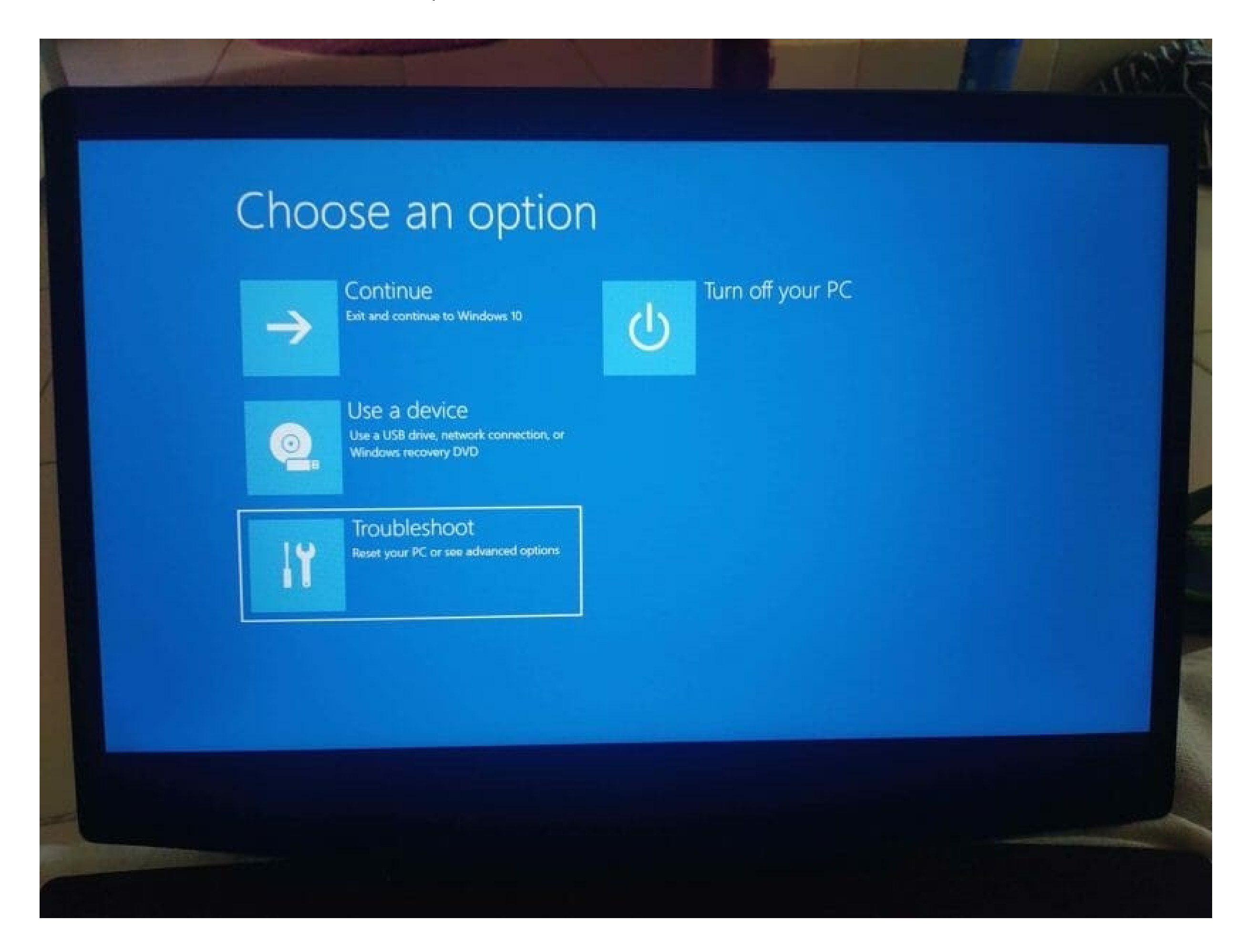
Using Automatic Repair

If you get to see an error saying Windows could not complete the installation. Then to tackle it, the first and foremost thing you could do is to run the Automatic Repair. Automatic Repair will automatically spot and fix the boot issues in your computer.

For running the Automatic Repair, you need to restart your Windows 10 device. As the restart begins, click the boot option button. You can search it for your system model name. Once you

get your boot option key, continue tapping the key while the restart process is running. If you do it correctly, then the boot options screen will open up on your screen. Now, do the following steps:

1. Enter the **windows recovery environment**.
2. Locate the Troubleshoot option and hit enter.



3. Now select **Reset this PC** followed by the **Keep my files** option. And select **Cancel**.
4. Choose your Account and enter the password.
5. Now, click **Continue** and Finally click on **Reset**.

It will fix your issue in almost 60-70 % of cases. And the computer restarts the installation to install windows. And will not require any extra configurations. If this does not restore your problem, follow the below approach.

Enable Administrator Account

In case you can try enabling the Administrator Account. It will allow the installation process without admittance issues.

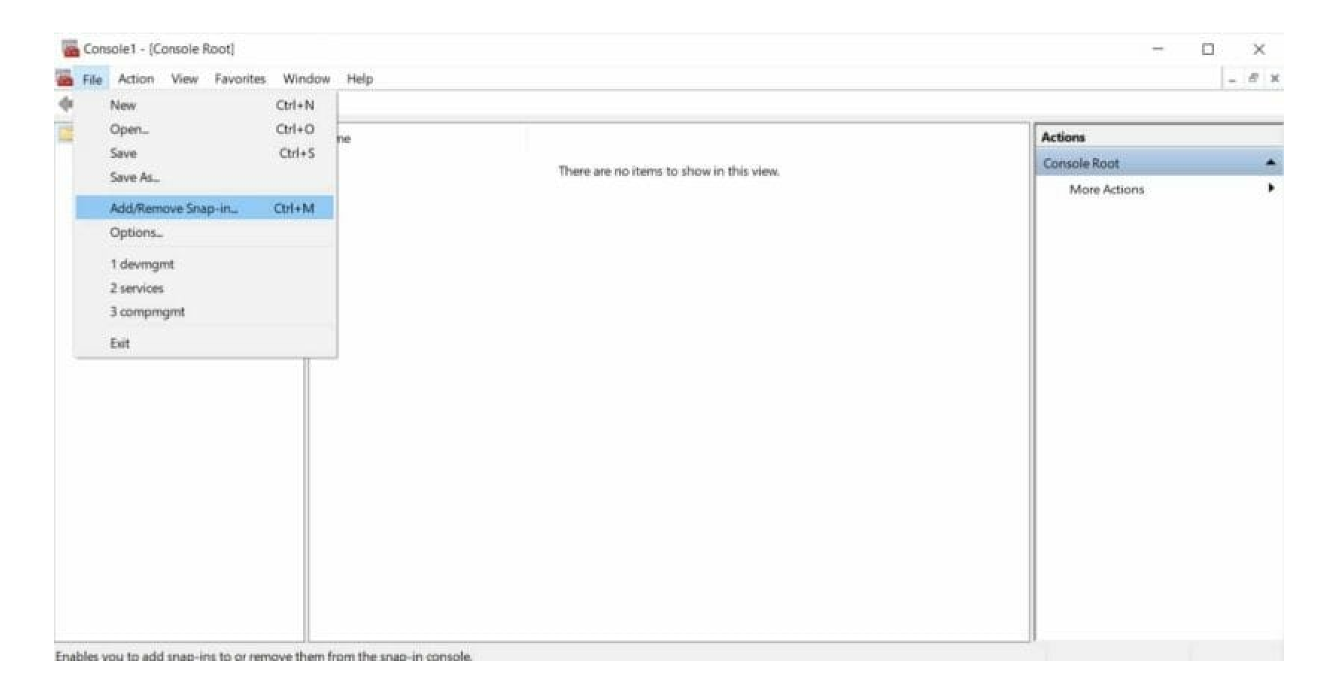
To achieve this, follow the below-mentioned steps:

1. Open the Command prompt on the error screen.
2. Now, enter the **MMC** command on the command shell and hit enter.

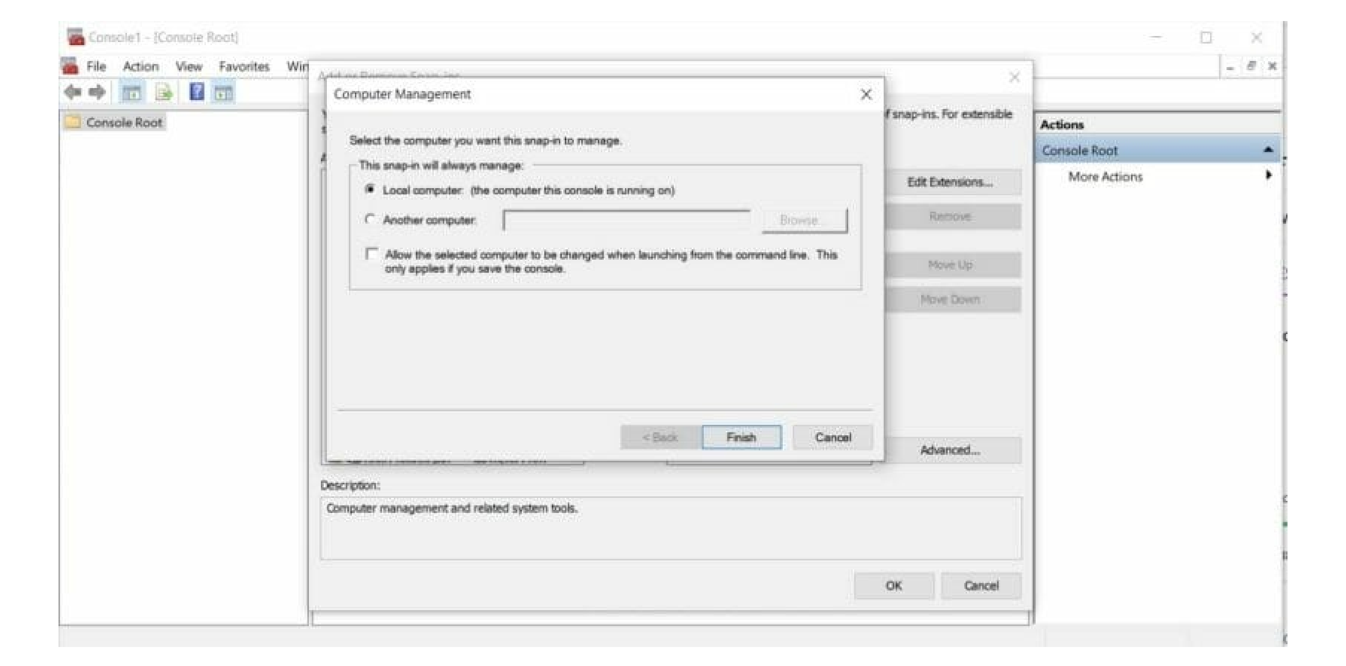


3. Your computer system now will ask you whether to give access to the MMC or not. Click on **Yes** and proceed.
4. Console root window will open on your screen. Now click on **File** and pick **Add/Remove Snap-in**.

See also 10 Fixes For Hard Drive Not Showing Up In Disk Management



5. Locate the **Computer Management** and open it.
6. Now check the **Local computer** option and click Finish.



7. Next, click OK. And double-click on the Computer Management option on the left.
8. Go to the System tools and select Local users and groups, and open the Users folder.
9. In the Computer management local system tools local users, open the **Administrator** and make sure **the Account is disabled** option is unchecked, and click OK.
10. Now right-click on the Administrator to set the password.

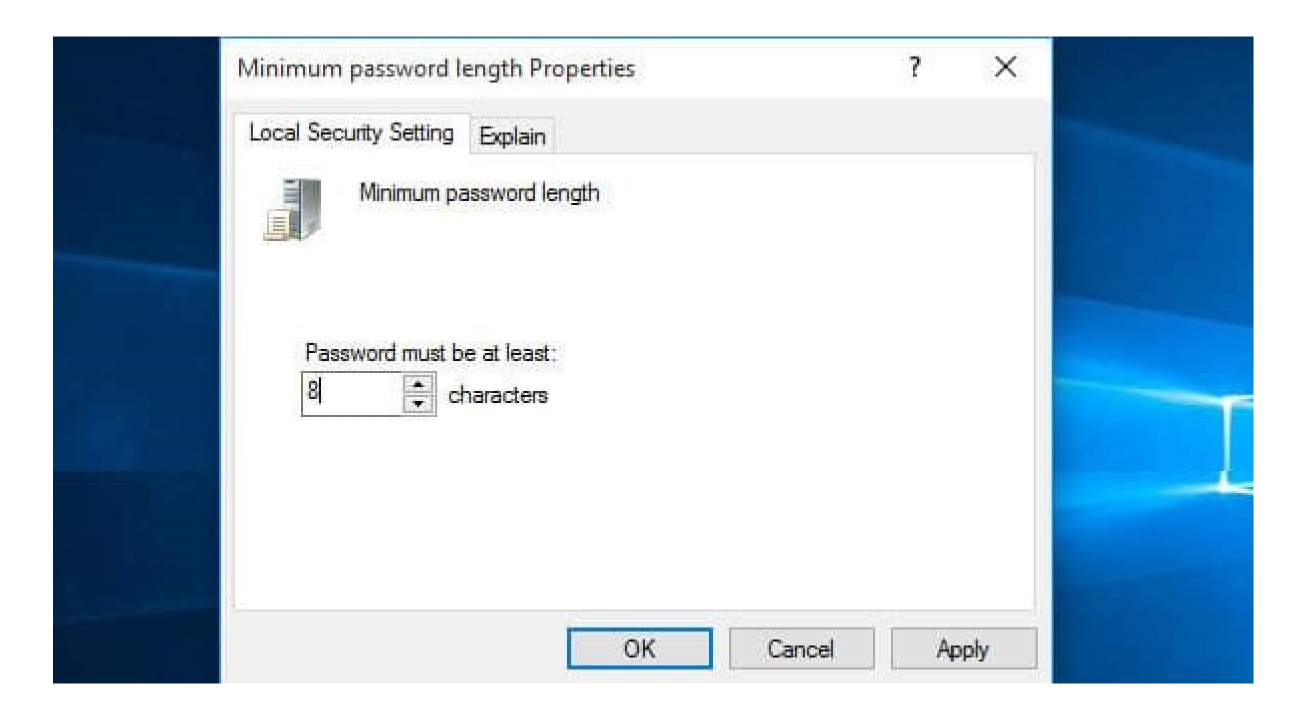
Once done, restart your system and see if the problem is gone.

Change Password Requirement

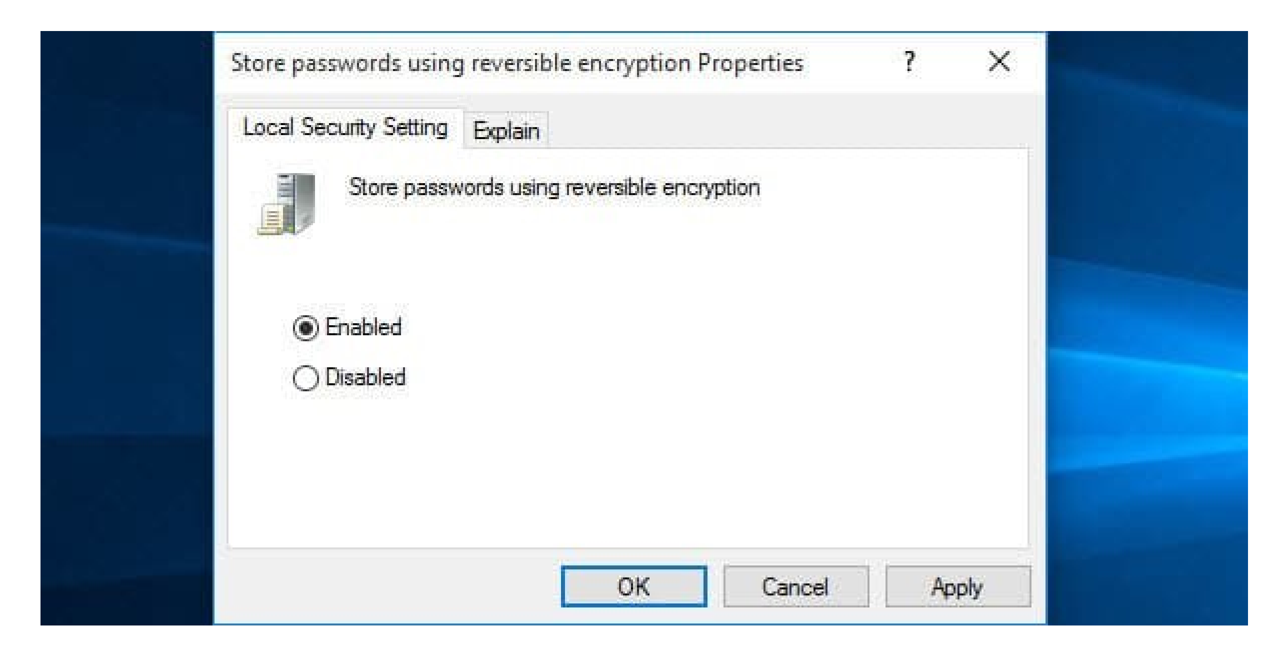
Many times password becomes an issue in executing plenty of functions in our system. Due to the authorization and access refusal. And it may be the case you are having the same problem with the error Windows could not complete the installation.

To fix this, we will try changing the password requirement on our system. Follow the below steps:

1. Open the Command prompt on the error screen.
2. Now paste **secpol.msc** in the console and hit enter.
3. Now on the pop-up window, select **Security settings** and open **Account policy**.
4. Open the **Password policy** on the right you'll get to see the Minimum password length. Now, right-click on it and open properties.
5. Change the length to 0 characters.



6. Now, opening the password must meet complexity properties and disable the setting if found enabled. And apply all the changes.



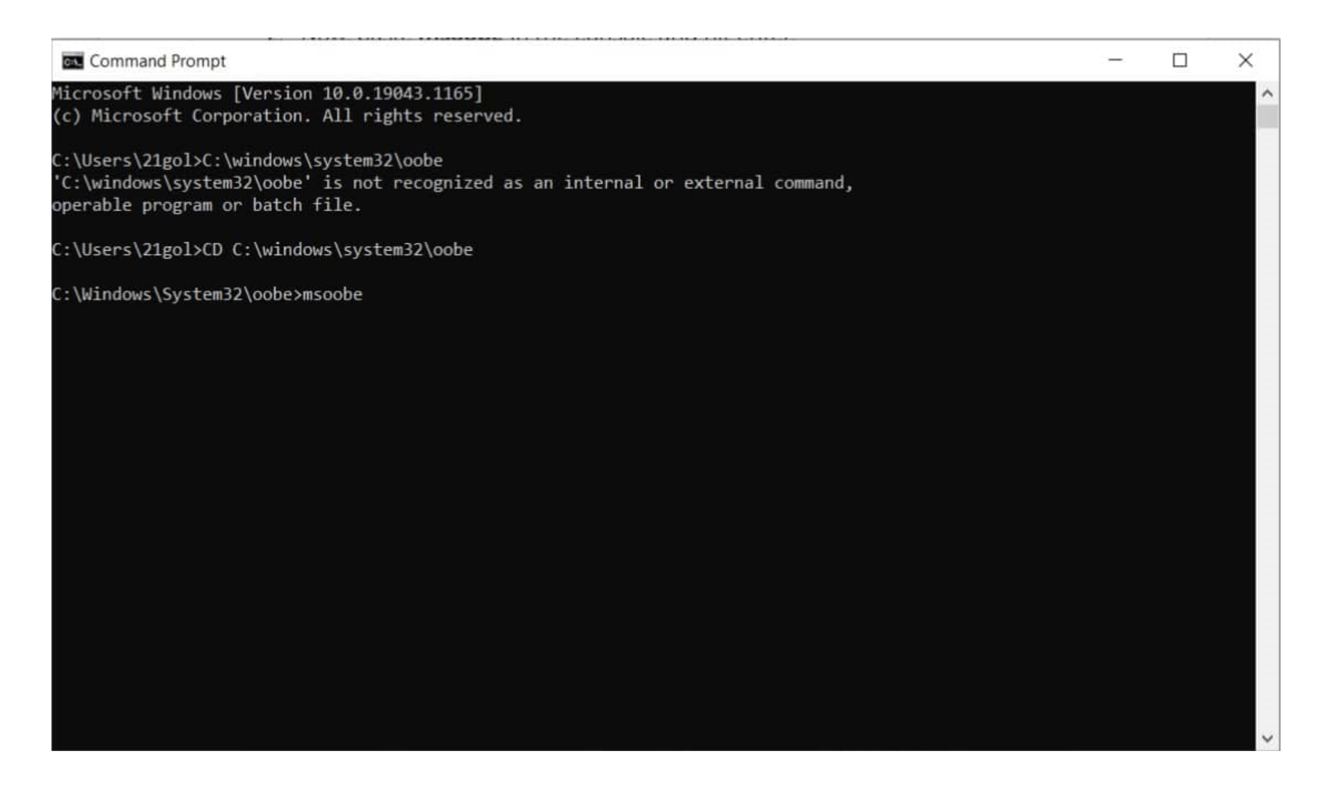
Reboot and check if the problem is solved.

Run Account Creation Wizard

If the above fixes didn't help you, try creating a new generic account and see if this helps.

For this, you'll need to run the Account creation wizard to achieve it, follow the mentioned steps:

1. On the error screen, press **Shift F10** to open the Command prompt. And paste CD **C:\windows\system32\oobe** in the shell, and hit enter.
2. Now, paste **msoobe** in the console and hit enter.



3. Now click **Yes** to proceed.
4. Create a generic account and password.

Now, check if the issue is solved.

Restore To Different Computer

Restoring to some other computer system has helped many people solve the Windows could not complete the installation error. For this, you'll require third-party software to achieve the same. Here we will be using MiniTool ShadowMaker, which is a Windows 10 backup software tool.

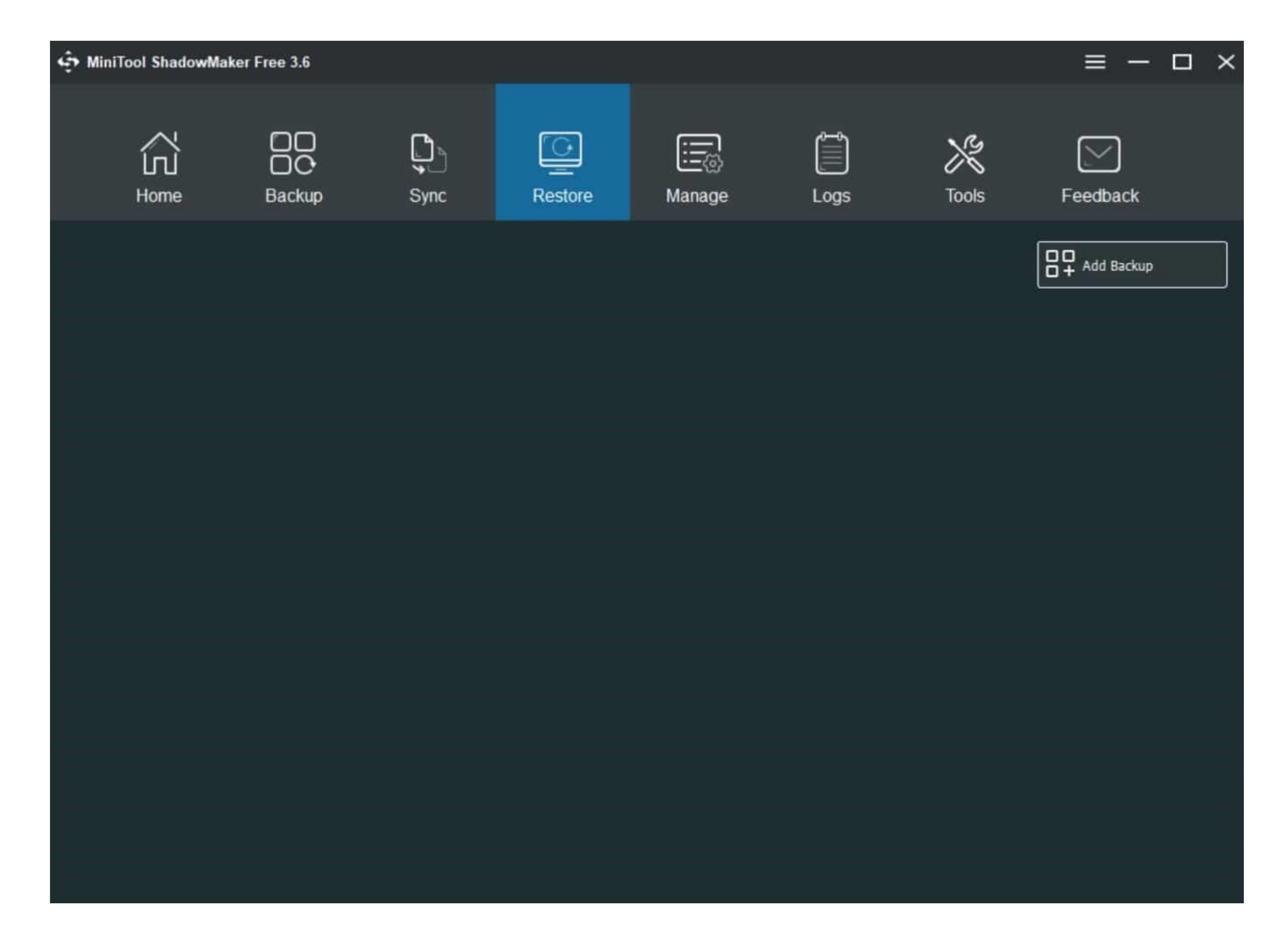
MiniTool ShadowMaker is an excellent tool that provides various backup services. And it can also clone the OS from HDD to SSD.

Download the MiniTool ShadowMaker here.

To restore on some different computer and install windows on this computer,

follow the mentioned steps:

1. **Connect your hard drive** to the computer and **launch the MiniTool ShadowMaker** recovery environment.
2. Now go to the **Restore** and click over **Add Backup** for adding the system image to backup.



3. Confirm restoration by clicking Restore.
4. It will now ask you to choose the backup version. Choose the version and click Next.
5. Select the volumes to restore the selected backup files. And make sure to check the MBR and Track 0 for the successful booting and now click Next.
6. Now it will ask you to choose a target disk. Choose the preferred target disk and click Next.

Now, wait until the software completes the backup process. Once done, it may happen that you won't be able to boot your system normally. So to fix this, you will require to do the Universal Restore.

See also 7 Fixes For Second Hard Drive Not Showing Up

Go to Tools and select the Universal Restore, and now click Restore.

Once the restore process gets over, close the MiniTool and set your system to boot from the hard drive. Now see if your system boots successfully.

Check Whether Your Computer Meets The Minimum Requirements

It is essential for fulfilling all the requirements for favorably installing Windows 10 on your system. Check the following parameters for successfully installing Windows 10:

Required RAM:

The expected RAM is 1 GB, 2 GB for 32 bit and 64 bit respectively.

Required Hard disk space:

Disk space required is 16 GB, 20 GB for 32 bit and 64 bit respectively.

CPU requirement:

The Processor must be 1GHz or faster.

Required screen resolution:

800 x 600 or more.

Required graphics:

Micromax DirectX 9 or later with WDDM 1.0 driver

If your system fulfills all the requirements, continue with the below fixes.

Clearing Certain Attributes Of The Installation Folder

You can try clearing attributes present in the installation folder, which could be the reason for the error.

For achieving the same, follow the steps below:

1. Boot the system and navigate to the last screen.
2. Now, minimize the installer and open the File Explorer.
3. Navigate to the C:\ drive.
4. Locate the **$WINDOWS.~BT** folder and right-click on the problematic folder.
5. Now open the properties option in the menu.
6. Locate the Attribute section in the General tab and uncheck the Read-Only System.
7. Now, click on Apply to save the changes.

Reinstall The System Home Version Without Activation

It could be the case that you are trying to install a distinct version, and this is causing you the error in the installation. To tackle this, try installing the home version again but do not activate it while installing. As the installation completes successfully, enter the product key, and your system version will get approved. Now see if it is functioning fine.

Run Windows Update Installer

If nothing has worked so far, try running the windows update installer, which will help you install the windows smoothly. For running the windows update installer, follow the below steps:

1. Open the Command prompt on the error screen.
2. Enter **D:** in the console and hit enter.

It will open the D:\ partition in the console.

3. Now enter setup and press enter to run the windows update installer.

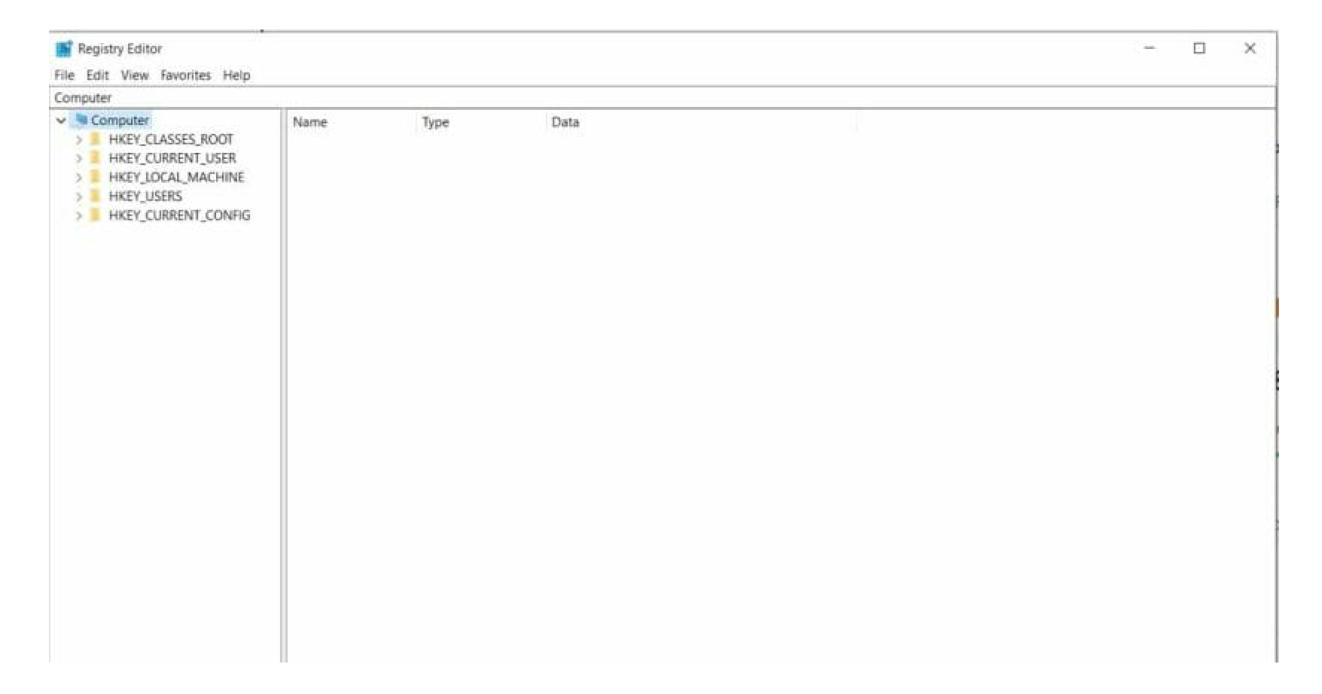


Now check if the windows could not complete the installation error is gone.

Modify Registry Subkeys

For modifying the registry subkeys, follow the below commands:

1. Open the Run application for achieving the same, hold the Windows key, and press R. This will open the Run application for you.
2. Now, type **regedit** in the input window and hit enter.
3. After this, the Registry Editor window will get open on your screen.



4. Navigate to the below paths and modify as shown below –

Computer\HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\Setup\Status –> Audit : 0

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\Setup\Status\ChildCompletion –> Setup.exe: 3

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\Setup\Status\ChildCompletion –> Audit.exe: 0

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\Setup\Status\SysprepStatus –> CleanupState: 2

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\Setup\Status\SysprepStatus –> GeneralizationState: 7

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\Setup\Status\UnattendPasses –> AuditSystem: 0

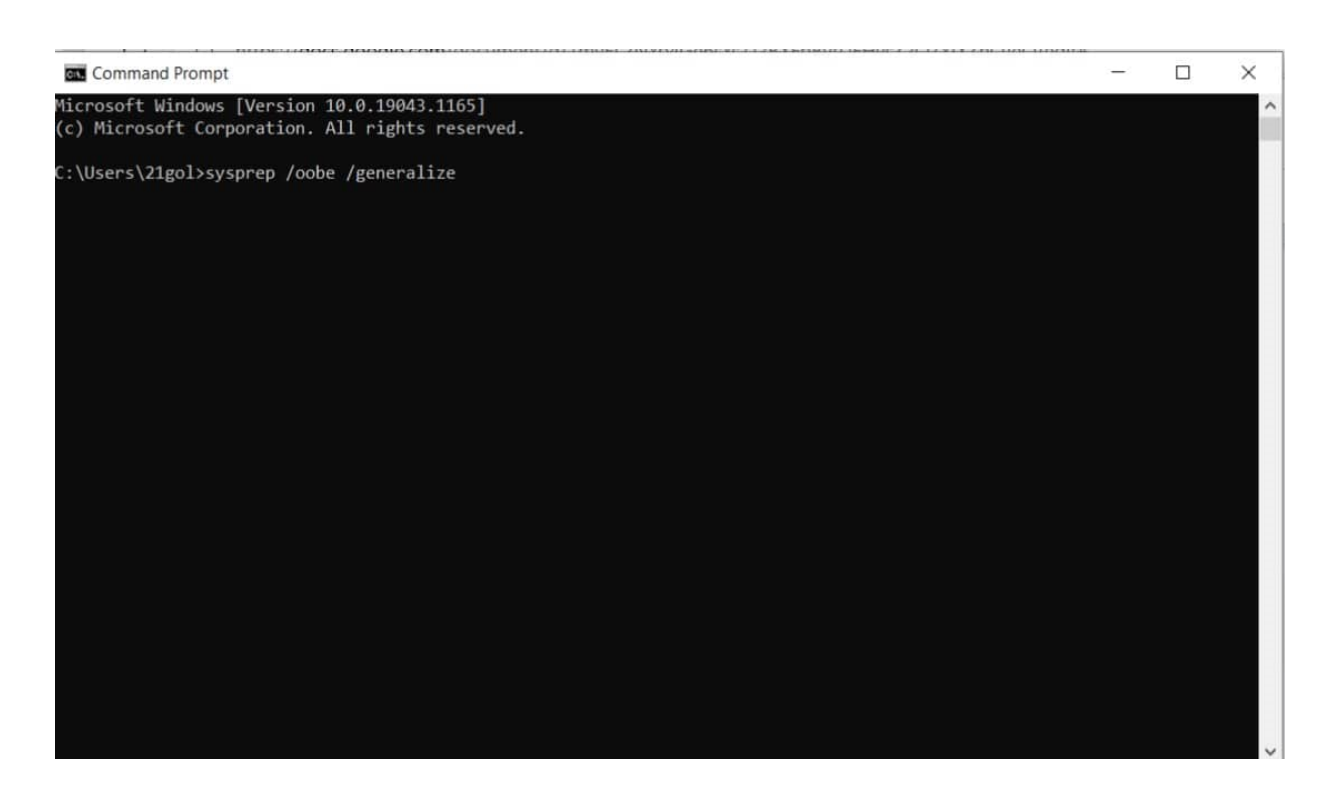
5. Now, reboot your system and check if the problem Windows could not complete the installation is gone.

Exit From The Audit Mode

For exiting the Audit Mode, follow the below instructions:

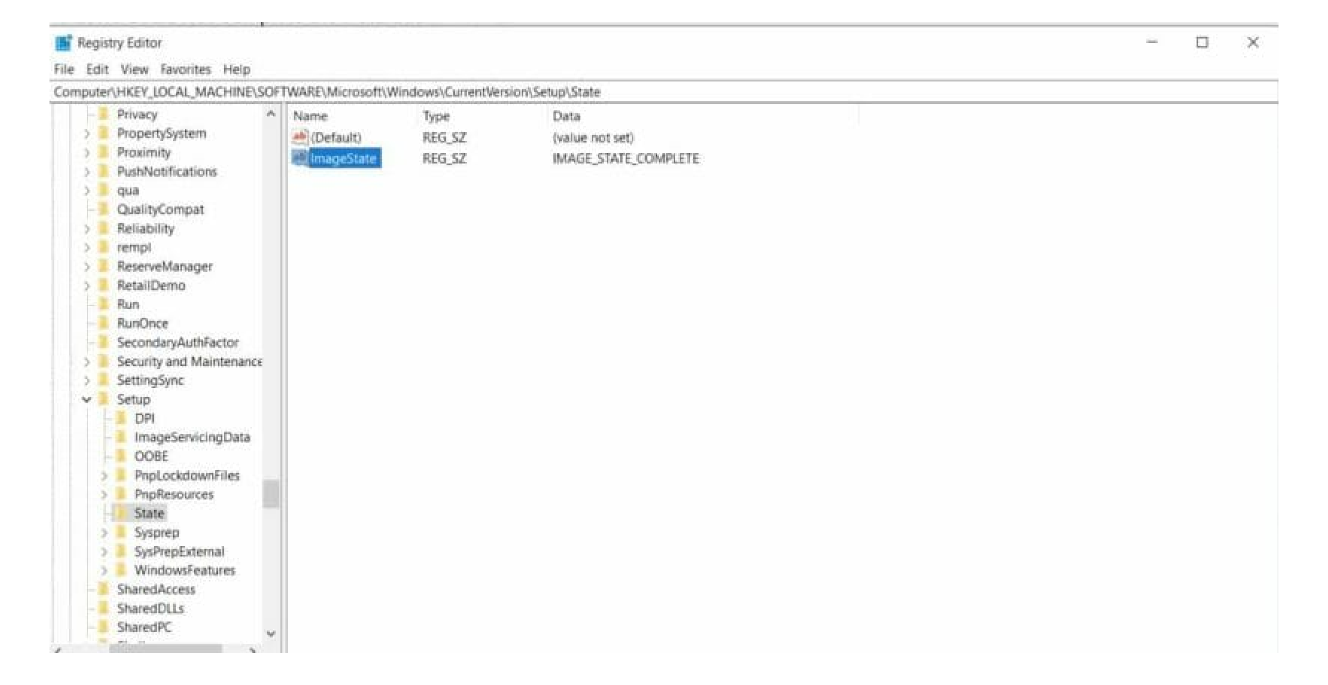
1. Open the **Command prompt** on the error screen.
2. Now enter **sysprep /oobe /generalize** in the console and hit enter.

See also 22 Fixes For "Access Denied" Error In Windows



Now close the Command prompt and try rebooting the system. If you witness the same error:

1. Again open the Run application. And type **regedit**, and hit enter.
2. Go to the **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Setup\State** and locate **ImageState**.



3. Now right-click on it and select the delete option.

Close the command prompt and check if your problem Windows could not complete the installation error is gone.

Rebuild BCD

Step:01 Create a Windows Installation CD/DVD

Before starting, you need to create a Windows Installation CD/DVD. To achieve the same, follow the below steps:

1. Download the media creation tool.
2. Now launch the tool and follow the instructions on the screen for creating the Windows Installation CD/DVD.

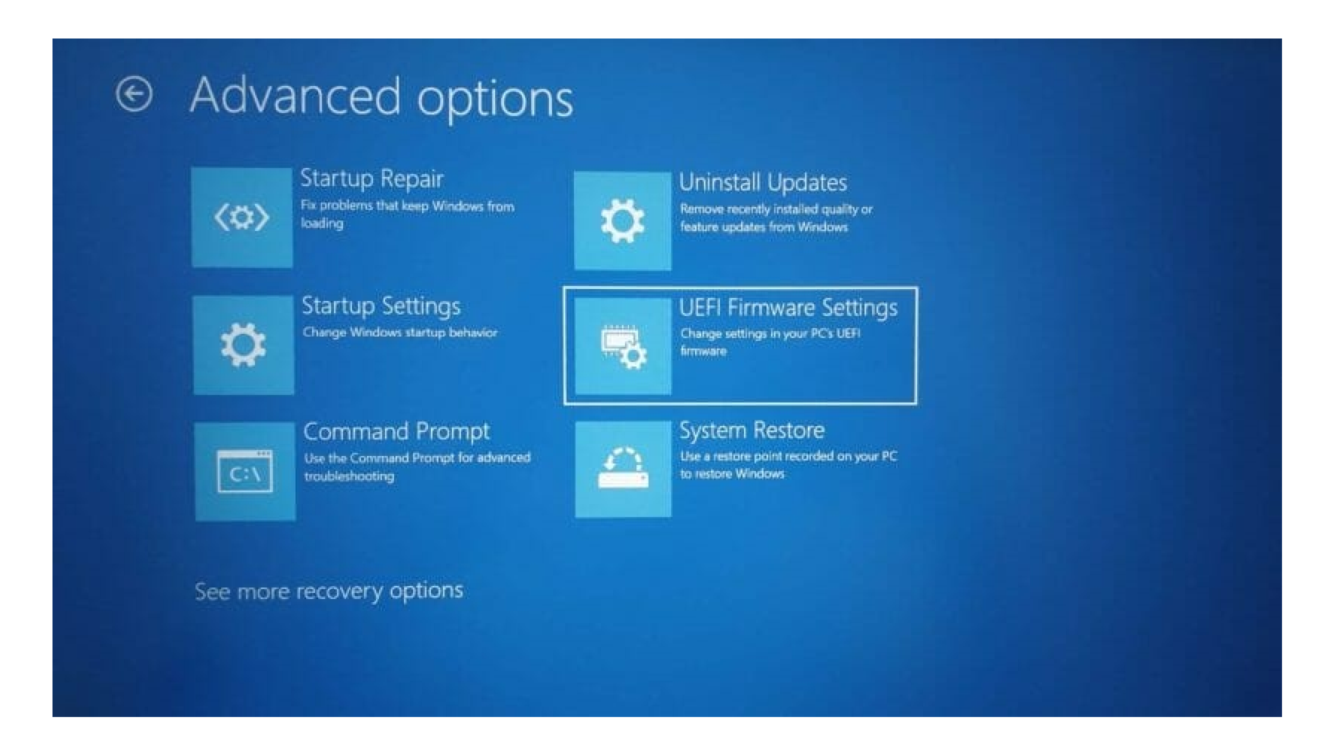
Step:02 Rebuilding BCD inCommand prompt

Firstly, you need to restart your Windows 10 device. As the restart begins, click the boot option button. You can explore it for your system model name.

Once you get your boot option key, continue tapping the key while the restart process is running.

If you do it correctly, then the boot options screen will open up on your screen. Now, do the following steps for rebuilding the BCD:

1. Open the Repair your computer option.
2. Now, click on Troubleshoot. Followed by Advanced options.
3. And finally, from there, open the Command prompt.



Now, input the following commands in the shell one by one:

- **bootrec /fixmbr**
- **bootrec /fixboot**
- **bootrec /scanos**
- **bootrec /rebuildbcd**

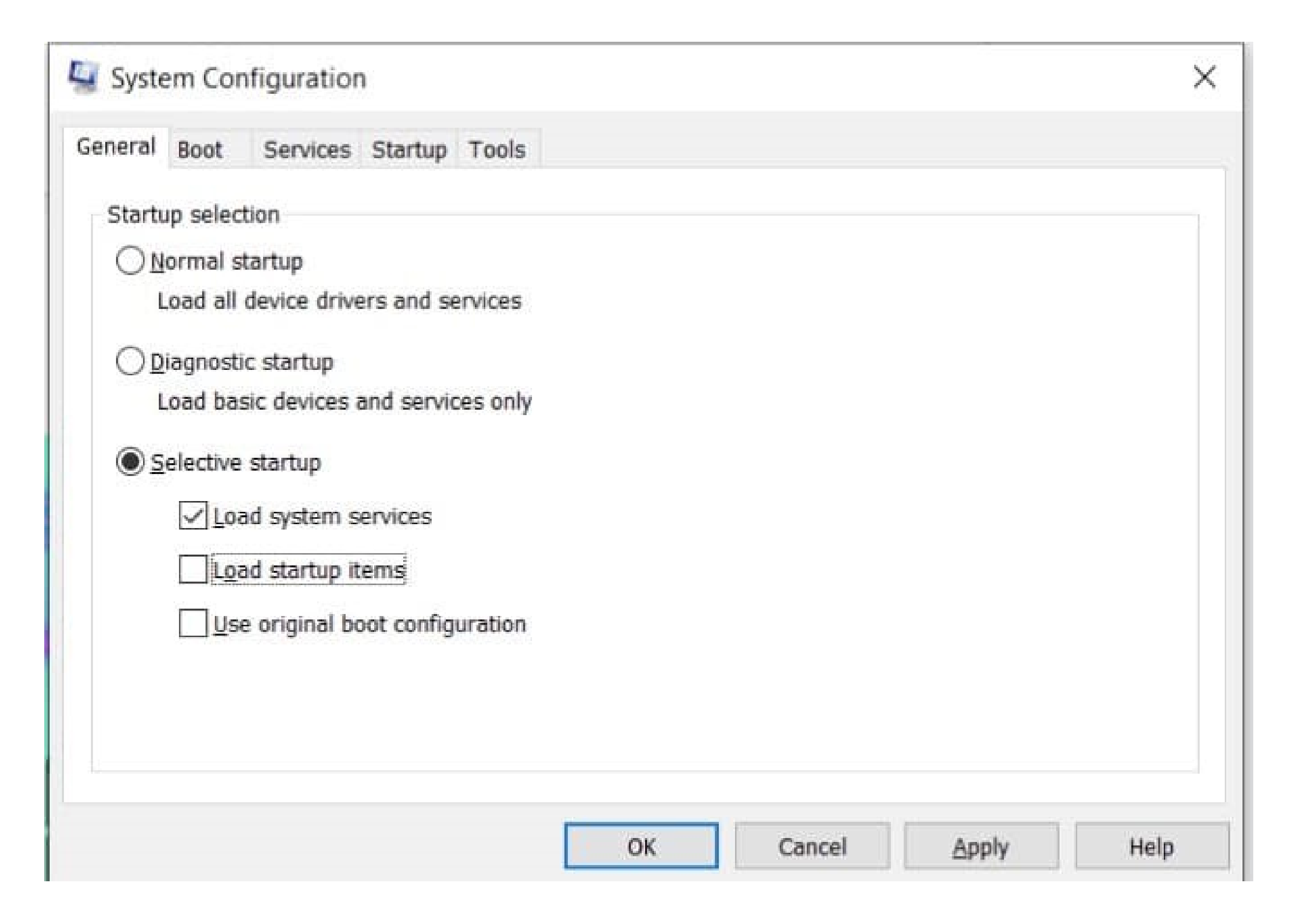
Use proper space as here to run the commands errorlessly.

Run The Installation In Clean Boot Mode

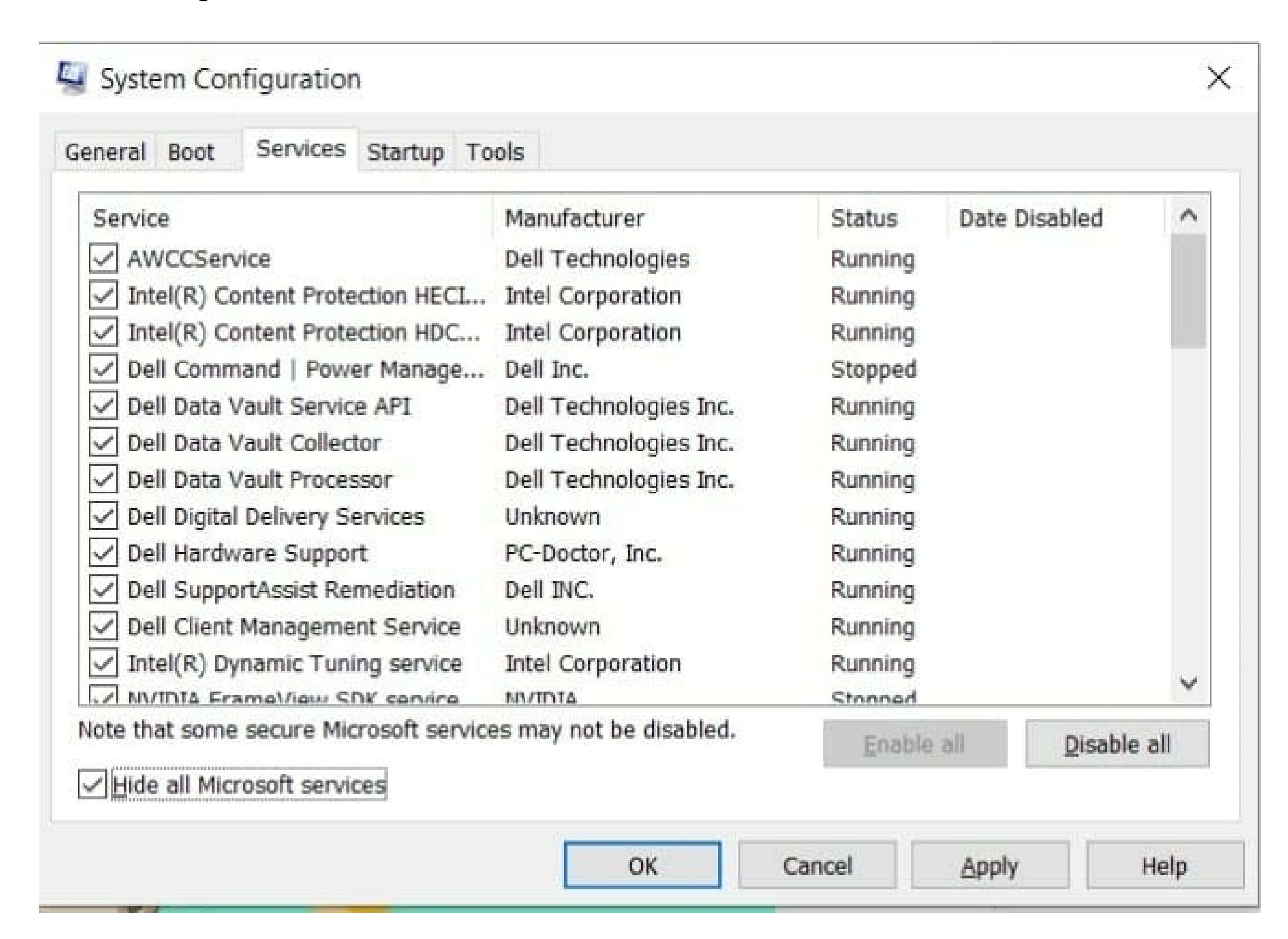
You are here means nothing has worked for you so far. The next thing you could try doing is to run the installation in the Clean boot.

To run the installation in Clean boot mode, follow the below steps:

1. Launch the **Run** application.
2. Now, enter **msconfig** in the input window on the Run application and hit enter.
3. Now you will witness a new pop-up window on your screen. On that, go to the **General tab**.



4. Check the **Selective startup** and uncheck the **Load startup items**.
5. Now go to the **Services tab**. There check the Hide all Microsoft services and click disable all.



6. Go to the **Startup tab** and open the Task Manager. Now disable all the unnecessary items from there.

Now see if the error Windows could not complete installation error is fixed by now.

FAQs

Can’t complete Windows 10 install?

If you are unable to install Windows 10, then the issues could be many behind the same. Like the corrupted system files, shut down of update services, or the access prohibition.

Why does Windows fail to install? How do I fix it?

There exists no particular reason behind it but many. It could be admittance issues, mismatches with the Windows version and the system, or corrupted files. To fix the same, you can try a few quick fixes like using the automatic repair tool, modifying registry subkeys, and running the installation in the clean boot.

I could not complete the install because an update service was shutting down?

Yes, it could be the reason. To fix it, try restarting the Windows update services.